

Published
by the
Office of
Central
Inspection,
City of
Wichita.
Editor:
*Tom
Herschen*

2006

Volume 16

Issue 2

Construction Industry News from City Hall

*Superintendent of Central Inspection
Kurt Schroeder*

OCI Hires Building Construction Inspection Supervisor

OCI has recently hired Robert (Bob) Walker, most recently the Commercial Plans Examiner for Sedgwick County Code Enforcement, as OCI Building Construction Inspection Supervisor. Mr. Walker replaces Ray Sledge, who retired from the City in December 2005 after many years of fine service.

We are very pleased to have Mr. Walker on OCI's team, and are confident that he will serve the City and the local construction industry extremely well. I'm sure many of you have had the opportunity to work with Mr. Walker over the years, or have been a participant in one of his many building code classes.

Mr. Walker began employment with OCI on Monday, May 1st. Please welcome him as he continues to build upon our Wichita tradition of safe, quality construction, in partnership with the design, building and trade industries.

Permits for Masonry Fences

Building permits are required by code for masonry fences more than four foot in height, as measured to adjoining grade. Permit applications are reviewed for both structural design and appropriate location on zoning lots. An important review of fence location with respect to drainage and utility easements is also conducted.

Permit applications must include the following information:

- A detailed site plan indicating the proposed location of the fence in relation to parcel lot lines and drainage and utility easements. This does not have to be an architecturally sealed drawing, but needs to have sufficient detail to accurately determine its placement.
- Structural drawings/details sealed by a structural engineer. If a masonry fence-builder uses the same structural designs for his fences, those sealed structural designs/details may be placed on file with OCI.
- If the masonry fence crosses or is located within or along an easement, all utility companies that have *or may have* access to the utility easement, including public water & sewer, electric, gas, telephone, cable and storm water/drainage must formally authorize the construction of such fences in or over the utility easements. It is the responsibility of the fence contractor to request, obtain and provided these utility authorizations before issuance of a building permit for fence erection.
- ***“E-Permits”***, OCI’s Internet construction permitting and inspection scheduling service for Wichita-licensed contractors, continues to exceed expectations during after its first 14 months of operation. Contractors have been pleased with its user-friendly process, and new contractors are logging on and signing on every day. The ***“E-Permits”*** was officially rolled out to contractors in early February 2005, during the “Home Show”. As of April 20, 2006, nearly 5,000 building and trade construction permits had been processed through ***“E-Permits”***, and about 47,000 permit inspections have been scheduled through ***E-Permits”*** by licensed contractors. ***“E-Permits”*** is also saving staff significant time on permit processing. Nearly all “E-Permits” are being reviewed and issued within 2-4 business hours of contractor permit application submittal. **If you haven’t tried it, please do. We think you’re going to like it!**

Faxing Sewer Permits

Sewer permits will be processed within two (2) days after receipt over the fax. Sewer permits generally take longer to research the information and the potential for mistakes and the consequence of those mistakes are far greater than the other types of permits, therefore the reason extra time is needed to process.

Continuing Education: Plumbers / HVAC

There have been many questions regarding continuing education, particularly with respect to what types of education and training will be accepted within the City of Wichita. Here are some guidelines to follow:

Classes must pertain to the type of work for which you are certified, **and must be provided by a local governing body or a nationally recognized trade association** (i.e., master or journeyman continuing/training education for master or journeyman mechanical certificates should pertain to HVAC; master or journeyman continuing education/training for plumbing certificates should pertain to plumbing and/or gas piping). Education and training regarding proper installation or repair of related appliances and materials is also acceptable. Continuing Educations Credits (CEUs) will be applied to ACTUAL classroom hours.

Please remember that the purpose of continuing education is to keep you informed of industry practices and standards, as well as code updates and new products. If education and training does not apply to the applicable items as identified above, the education and training will probably not be recognized for certificate renewal.

2006 Code Reviews: Plumbing / Mechanical

We will soon be starting review of the 2006 codes for adoption. If you or anyone you know is interested in helping out in the review process, please call me or send me an email. With respect to mechanical codes, we will be reviewing the 2006 Uniform Mechanical Code, the 2006 International Mechanical Code, the 2006 International Fuel Gas Code, and the 2006 International Residential Code. On the plumbing side, we will be reviewing the 2006 Uniform Plumbing Code and the 2006 International Plumbing Code.

E-mail address is: dleidy@wichita.gov
Phone number: 268-4471

Attention Roofers and Mechanical Contractors

Please be aware of vents for furnaces and water heaters when re-roofing a structure. Existing vents or flues can be easily damaged and elbows can easily come apart if not securely fastened. We have had a couple of instances where this has happened during the re-roof process.

LETTER OF MAP CHANGES TRAINING

Sponsored by Kansas Division of Water Resources

The Floodplain Program at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources is sponsoring a **NO COST** Letter of Map Change workshop in Wichita on May 23, and Salina on May 24, 2006. FEMA's Mapping Contractor, Michael Baker, will be conducting the workshop. The workshop objective will be to outline in detail the fundamental requirements for submitting a request for a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA), Letter of Map Revision Based on Fill (LOMR-F), Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), and a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR). Discussion will also include common errors in submitting letters of map change applications. Participants will leave the workshop with a number of handouts that outline the application process. All forms needed to apply for a map revision will be available.

Discussion topics to include:

Definitions	NFIP regulations	LOMAs, LOMR-Fs, & CLOMR-Fs
BFE determinations	New FEMA fill regulations	Community involvement
Keys to successful FEMA map revisions		Floodways
Maintenance	Obtaining data from FEMA	Effective model identification
Hydraulic models	Application/certification forms	H&H items to check in submissions

Engineers and surveyors may use this workshop for continuing education credits. To ensure credit of professional development hours, participants will receive a workshop agenda, speaker's qualifications, and a certificate. Preregistration is required at the application and additional information may be accessed at <http://www.ks-agr.org/dwr/ws/fpm/LOMC%20Invite%20May%202006.pdf>. For additional information, please contact Rhonda Montgomery at the Department of Agriculture at (785) 296-4622 or by e-mail: rmontgomery@kda.state.ks.us.

The Wichita workshop will be held at the Garvey Center, Mediterranean Room, 250 Douglas Place, Wichita from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

AM/PM/No Preference

I know this has been discussed many times before but the electrical section is making your preference a high priority and we need your help. There are many days that well over 50% of the inspections are requested for an AM inspection and when the inspector arrives he finds out the inspection really did not need to be in the AM. This delays the inspector and there may be an inspection that really relied on an AM inspection to keep the job running. We ask that when you are requesting your inspection to look, **does the inspection really need performed in the AM or PM** or is it just that the inspection would be ready by that time and the inspection could be done anytime that day without presenting a problem. If that is the case we ask that you request a NO PREFERENCE. There are times when an electrical and building inspection are requested for the same day. If you know this at the time you are requesting the inspection please leave a message in the comment box, if scheduling off the internet, or leave a voice mail if scheduling off TELUS and we will work together so you would not need to schedule AM or PM but instead schedule NO PREFERENCE.

Attention Electrical and Mechanical Contractors

There has been a lot of questions about clearances on electric disconnects, including A/C disconnects. Article 110.26(A) states “Working space for equipment operating at 600 volts, nominal, or less to ground and likely to require examination, adjustment, servicing, or maintenance while energized shall comply with the dimensions of 110.26(A)(1), (A)(2), and (A)(3) or as required or permitted elsewhere in this *Code*.” The intent of 110.26(A) is to provide enough space for personnel to perform any of the operations listed without jeopardizing worker safety. It is important to understand that the word *examination*, as used in 110.26(A), includes such tasks as checking for the presence of voltage using a portable voltmeter.

We understand this has not been uniformly enforced in the past, but for the safety of all we will start July 1, 2006, checking for and enforcing clearances on disconnects including A/C disconnects. Remember that dead front disconnects may be required as per Title 19 of the city ordinance.

Attention Electrical and Commercial Contractors

Commercial ceiling rough and final inspections.

We have separate codes in the Tidemark system (TELUS and E-Permits) for commercial ceiling rough-in, 242, inspections and ceiling final, 942, inspections.

A **242 ceiling rough** inspection is to be requested when all the boxes, raceways, wiring and cable is installed and strapped. The whips to the light fixture are to be made up in the boxes and left hanging, as the light fixtures do not have to be installed. The ceiling grid is not required to be installed. The wiring connections are to be made up but left hanging out of the boxes. The box covers are not to be installed at this stage. This will allow the inspector to check for strapping, proper color coding of conductors, openings in boxes, conduit fill and derating of conductors, and box fill, most of which can not be inspected by the current process.

A **942 ceiling final** inspection is to be requested when all light fixtures and electrical devices that mount in or above the ceiling are installed and made up, including all fastening clips. All electrical work above the ceiling is to be complete and temporary wiring removed. Covers are to be installed on all boxes. The ceiling grid is to be installed but the ceiling is to remain open for inspection. Ceiling tiles, including boarders, are **NOT** to be in place, except those required for the above listed work to be completed.

Central Inspection is constantly striving to make Wichita safer and starting July 1, 2006, doing these inspections separate will promote a safer Wichita.

Tom Kerschen, Construction Inspection Supervisor Electrical / Elevator



CITY OF
WICHITA

www.wichita.gov



THE CITY OF WICHITA
OFFICE OF CENTRAL INSPECTION
CITY HALL - 7TH FLOOR
455 NORTH MAIN STREET
WICHITA, KANSAS 67202

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WICHITA, KS
PERMIT NO. 588